(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Seagrams cashes in policy confusion buys distillery" appearing in the Observer of Business and Polities. New Delhi. dated 25th December. 1999;

(b) whether it is a fact that M/s. Seagrams Mfg. Pvt. Limited bought out Oceanic Distilleries Pvt. Ltd without the approval of the Central Government and signed the MoU with OPDL in August, 1996; and

(c) If so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The facts mentioned in the News Item have come to the notice of Government. It is for the concerned and relevant authorities to ascertain the facts for appropriate action.

News-items captioned "India is 3rd on EU's trade priority"

2453. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Times of India. dated the 2nd March, 2000 captioned "India is 3rd on EU's trade priority".

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes. Sir

(b) and (c) Mr. Pascal Lamy. Trade Commissioner of the European Commission visited India during 2-8. 2000. During his meeting with the Minister of Commerce & Industry on 7th March. 2000, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral and multilateral matters such as market access for Indian products in the EU market. anti-dumping/anti-subsidy measures instituted by EC and multilateral trade issues.

Performance of Export Processing Zones

2454. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : (a) whether Government have received the performance of the Export Processing Zone.

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years ;

(c) whether Government propose to open new EPZ during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the places identified for the location of new EPZ ; and

(e) the details thereof ?